



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup
(508) 979-1410
Elizabeth.Treadup@ci.new-bedford.ma.us

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

“Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Remembrance Celebration” Sunday, January 14, 2007

“One Dream, One People: Unity in Diversity II”

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Mayor Scott W. Lang is pleased to join with the Greater New Bedford Area Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee in welcoming the community to attend the “Annual Martin Luther King Jr., Day of Remembrance Celebration” Sunday, January 14, 2007. Mayor Lang invited Governor Elect Deval Patrick to deliver the keynote address and he has graciously accepted.

“I am honored to have the Governor’s first visit to the City of New Bedford, in his official capacity, be to celebrate the legacy of a man of peace and one of our nation’s most inspirational leaders,” said Mayor Lang. “I am happy that we are able to make this such an inclusive event.”

A blend of faiths, cultures and ethnicities will come together to reflect upon the legacy of the civil rights leader and celebrate the common theme; “One Dream, One People: Unity in Diversity II” Rev. Mark Green, Sr. Pastor of Bethel AME Church and Rev. David Lima, Executive Minister of the Inter-Church Council will join Mayor Lang and other local officials in leading a symbolic march down County Street from Bethel AME Church located at 532 County Street to Centre Trinity Methodist Church at 473 County St. Individuals, community groups, organizations, agencies, faith leaders, as well as elected officials are invited and encouraged to participate in the ceremonial march. Anyone interested in participating in the procession should gather at the Bethel AME Church at 2:30 PM.

Rev. Green is also the newly elected President of the local chapter of the “National Association for the Advancement of Colored People” and has been a driving force behind this service. “We’re proud to be a part of this historical event in our city of great diversity. Hope is alive and especially with our new governor coming to our city to deliver the keynote address, it signals to people of all backgrounds that if you dream, great dreams and work hard they can be attained,” said Rev. Green.

The service at the Centre Trinity Methodist Church featuring Governor Patrick will begin promptly at 4:00PM. Executive Minister of the Inter-Church Council, Rev. David Lima noted that in addition the message from our newly elected governor, the service will feature inspirational music by choirs and soloists, dance, readings and prayers. “Realizing that Governor Patrick must have been invited to numerous meetings and services for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, we are honored that he would come to our city. I believe we are witnessing some of Dr. King’s dream coming to pass today and pray that it continues to be realized in the future,” said Rev. Lima.

There will be an opportunity for the public to contribute to the Greater New Bedford Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund.

Members of the MLK, Jr. Service Committee includes the Bethel AME; New Bedford Branch, NAACP; City of New Bedford, Mayor’s Office; The Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford; Grace Episcopal Church; New Bedford Public Schools; Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairhaven; Anchored in Christ Foursquare Gospel Church; Zion Deliverance Tabernacle-COGIC; Church at the Crossroads; Centre Trinity United Methodist Church; New Seasons Worship Center; Baha’i Faith, Tifereth Israel Congregation, The Weekly Compass.

For additional information visit the Council’s web page www.iccgnb.org or you may contact The Rev. David Lima or Marilyn Greene, at 508-993-6242. Media inquiries should be directed to Elizabeth Treadup of the New Bedford Mayor’s Office at 508-979-1410.

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